The LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS

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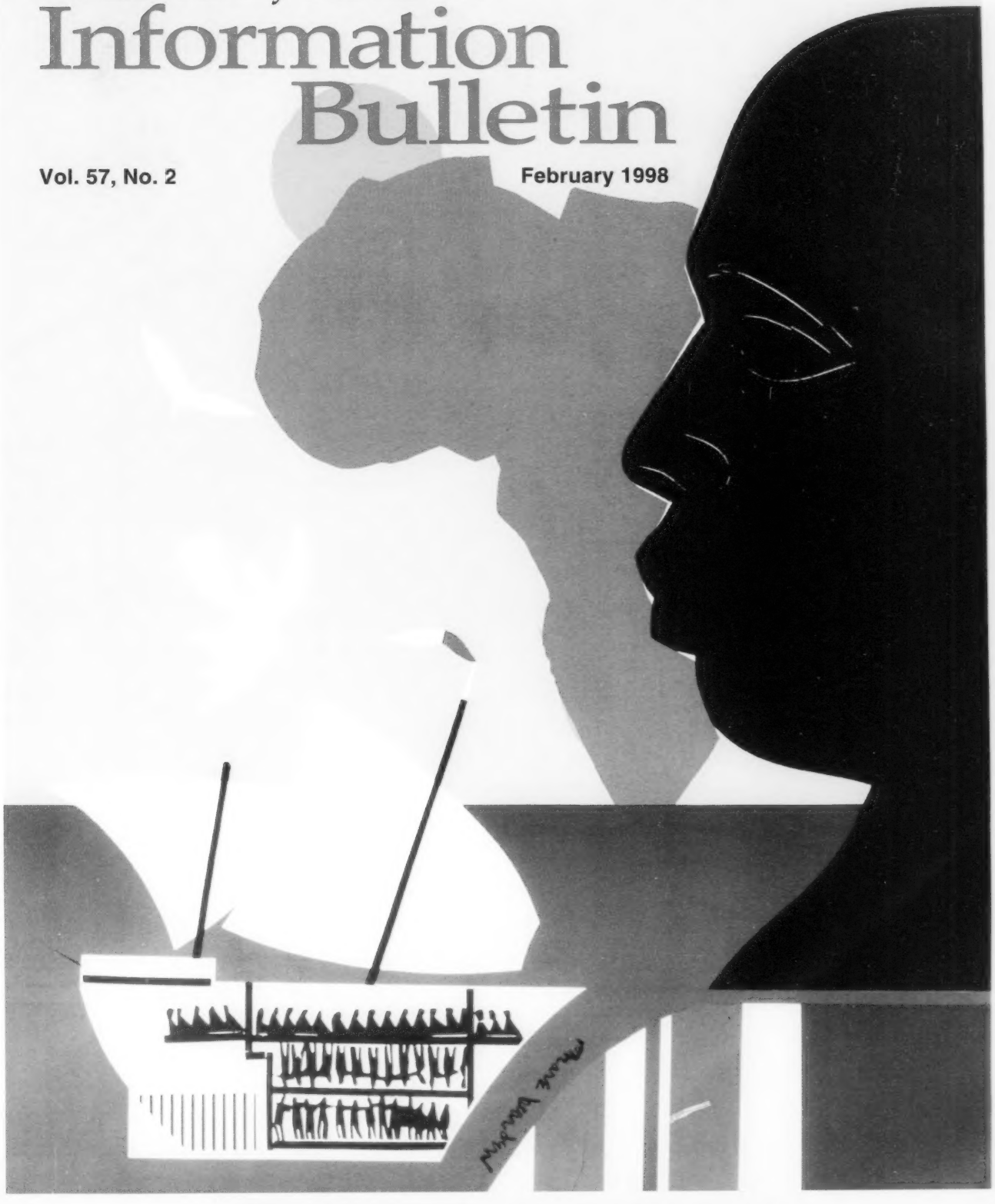

'The African American Odyssey'

The LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS
Information Bulletin

Vol. 57, No. 2 February 1998

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: *Roots Odyssey,* screenprint by Romare Bearden, on display in "The African American Odyssey: The Quest for Full Citizenship," an exhibition at the Library, Feb. 5 through May 2, 1998. Copyright Romare Bearden Foundation — licensed by VAGA, New York, N.Y..

Cover Story: "The African American Odyssey" draws upon hundreds of Library resources to tell the story of resisting enslavement and the search for full participation in American society by African Americans. History professor and guest curator Debra Newman Ham provides notes on the exhibition. 30

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The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued monthly by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available on the World Wide Web at http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib.

Research institutions and educational organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin,* Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue S.E., Washington DC 20540-1610, email lcib@loc.gov.

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Oscar and Associates Inc.

Librarians in New Orleans

LC Exhibits at ALA Midwinter Meeting

The 1998 Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) was a chance for the Library to showcase in one place initiatives that had previously been on exhibit separately.

On Jan. 10-12, in New Orleans, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped joined with the rest of the Library in a single exhibition booth. New furniture was built — media-demonstration tables and a literature display tower — and staff of NLS manned their stations to educate attendees on the services NLS provides persons with disabilities through its library affiliates across the country.

Attendance at this midwinter meeting was lower than at the Washington midwinter in 1996, and the general feeling of those working in the Library's booth as well as at the booths of other exhibitors was that traffic was slow. Perhaps the diversions of New Orleans proved too much of a lure for conventiongoers.

Nevertheless, the Library offered attendees demonstrations of its National Digital Library Program, including the American Memory collections; of the on-line catalogs; of products from the Cataloging Distribution Service; and of equipment offered by NLS. Also present were staff of the Center for the Book, who discussed the center's reading and literacy programs, and staff of the sales shops, who sold Library and related merchandise. Information from the U.S. Copyright Office was also available, as were copies of the December/January issue of the magazine of the Library, *Civilization*, which featured a story about the *Titanic*.

Another distraction for attendees on the exhibit floor was the "entertainment" offered by some of the vendors (the Library's booth was situated between a vendor who offered an Elvis imitator — with seven performances a day — and a juggling act, also performing several times daily).

The new booth configuration (and larger size, to make room for NLS) in some way provided a warm-up to the next ALA meeting, to be held in Washington this summer. Not only will the Library exhibit in the Washington Convention Center, it will also host the All-Conference Reception in the Great Hall. Although the Library hosted this reception the last time the ALA meeting was held in Washington, in February 1997, in many ways that experience served only as a dry run for the Annual Convention, which typically draws many thousands more people.

The Library will also host many programs, as it did last February, when attendees were treated to tours of the Digital Library Visitors' Center, special presentations of significant materials from the Library's collections and tours of the newly restored Jefferson Building, among others.

Announcements of Library events held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of ALA will be published in the LC *Information Bulletin* and available on the Library's Web site as soon as details are finalized.

— *Guy Lamolinara*

'Voices of the Dust Bowl'

Electronic Collection on Migrant Workers Debuts

"Voices of the Dust Bowl: The Charles L. Todd and Robert Sonkin Migrant Worker Collection" is now available from the Library's American Memory Program at http://www.loc.gov/.

This ethnographic field collection documents the everyday life of residents of Farm Security Administration (FSA) migrant work camps in central California in 1940 and 1941. It comprises audio recordings, photographs, manuscript materials, publications and ephemera generated during two separate documentation trips supported by the Archive of American Folk Song (now the Archive of Folk Culture), which is part of the Library's American Folklife Center.

Charles Todd and Robert Sonkin, both of the City College of New York (currently the City College of the City University of New York), took disc recording equipment supplied by the Archive of American Folk Song to the California cities of Arvin, Bakersfield, El Rio, Firebaugh, Porterville, Shafter, Thornton, Visalia, Westley and Yuba City. There, they documented dance tunes, cowboy songs, traditional ballads, square dance and play party calls, camp council meetings, camp court proceedings, conversations, storytelling sessions and personal experience narratives of the Dust Bowl refugees who inhabited the camps.

The collection consists of approximately 18 hours of audio recordings (436 titles on 122 recording discs), 28 graphic images (prints and negatives) and print materials including administrative correspondence, field notes, recording logs, song text transcriptions, news clippings and dust jackets from the recording discs with handwritten notes.

The American Folklife Center was created by the American Folklife Preservation Act of 1976. The purpose of the center is to "preserve and present" American folklife through programs of research, field documentation, archival presentation, exhibitions, publications and professional training.

The center is also the home of the Archive of Folk Culture, which contains more than 1.5 million manuscripts, sound recordings, photographs, films, videos, periodicals, microfilms and printed materials such as posters and brochures. The collection, the largest in the United States and one of the largest in the world, covers all 50 states and regions of the world.

Robert Hemmig

A group of children under Farm Workers Community Sign, El Rio, Calif., 1941

American Memory is a project of the National Digital Library Program of the Library of Congress. It aims to make freely available on the Internet millions of items from the Library's incomparable collections relating to American history. This public-private initiative is being supported in part by the U.S. Congress and mostly by contributions from the private sector. More than $33 million has been pledged in donations so far, enabling the Library to have more than 500,000 items currently on-line with millions more in the pipeline.

"Voices of the Dust Bowl" joins more than two dozen other American Memory electronic collections, including "Selected Civil War Photographs," "African American Perspectives," early short films, sound recordings and panoramic maps.

Robert Hemmig

Robert Hemmig

The King Family plays music in one of the migrant camps; Mrs. Frank Pipkin, age 46, "youngest great-grandmother," Shafter, Calif., 1941

National Digital Library Competition

Ninety-Nine Institutions Apply for New Awards

Ninety-nine institutions, either alone or in combination with others, have submitted 68 applications in the second round of the Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Competition.

Forty-five of the institutions formed 14 consortia in applying for awards to digitize their American history collections and make them freely available as part of the Library's American Memory on-line collections. Awards can be up to $75,000 for individual institutions and up to $150,000 for consortia.

This is the first time that the competition has allowed institutions to submit joint applications. The result has been an increase in applications from public libraries, archives, historical societies and museums. The intention of the competition is to encourage applications from a variety of institutions, large and small, public and private. During the final selection among meritorious projects, some consideration will be given to the type and size of institution and its geographical location and relevance to the subject areas emphasized in this year's competition.

Applications are evaluated by independent reviewers external to the Library. These evaluators are being convened by the Division of Preservation and Access of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Council on Library and Information Resources.

Award winners will be announced in April 1998. On April 10, 1997, in the first round of the three-year program, 10 institutions from across the country received awards that will help them make their unique collections available to anyone with access to the Internet.

With a $2 million gift from Ameritech, the Library of Congress is sponsoring this competition to enable nonfederal, tax-exempt, nonprofit cultural repositories to create digital collections of primary resource material.

These digital collections will complement and enhance the collections of the National Digital Library Program, available on the Internet at http://www.loc.gov/. The National Digital Library is envisioned as a distributed collection of digitized reproductions and originals to which many American institutions will contribute. The Library of Congress's contribution to this World Wide Web-based virtual library is called American Memory and is created by the Library's National Digital Library Program.

Awards will be made for projects that can be accomplished in 12 to 18 months. Repositories in the United States with collections of primary resource material that are significant for education and research in United States history and culture are eligible to apply.

The last round of the competition will take place in 1998-1999, with applications due on Nov. 2, 1998. For more information on the Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Program, see the World Wide Web site at http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/award/ or visit the Ameritech Web site at http://www.ameritech.com/community/loc/index.html.

The goal of the National Digital Library Program is to make freely available over the Internet millions of items by the year 2000, in collaboration with other institutions. Ameritech's contribution will help the Library meet that goal by providing funds to libraries and other institutions to aid them in the critical, yet expensive, task of making their unique American collections electronically available.

Ameritech provides a full range of communications services to millions of customers in 50 states and 40 countries. One of the world's 100 largest companies, Ameritech (www.ameritech.com) has 66,000 employees, 1 million share owners and $24 billion in assets.

NLS Wins Awards from CNIB

Two productions of the Library of Congress's National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) received first prize in separate categories at the 13th annual awards ceremony of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) on Oct. 20, 1997.

The Torgi Talking Book of the Year celebration, held at the Art Gallery of Ontario, recognized the contributions of talking-book producers and narrators. Nancy Campbell, chair of the CNIB Library for the Blind, praised the work of authors, publishers, volunteers and donors for demonstrating that "the virtual library is a reality, and universal access to information is a possibility."

CNIB The Canadian National Institute for the Blind

Beach Music, produced by NLS and the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), received first prize among partner-produced fictional works. It was written by Pat Conroy and narrated by Robert Blumenfeld.

The NLS-AFB production *of An Anthropologist on Mars: Seven Paradoxical Tales,* placed first among partner-produced nonfiction works. It was written by Oliver W. Sacks and narrated by Peter Johnson.

Canadian author and editor of *The Porcupine's Quill,* John Metcalf, was the guest speaker at the October ceremony. A special award was given to economist David K. Foote, author of *Boom, Bust, and Echo.*

The Torgi Awards were initiated in 1984 by the CNIB Library to highlight the importance of books on tape, recognize outstanding literary works, acknowledge the contributions of publishers and writers, and salute overall excellence in narration and production. The awards were named after Morely Torgov, recipient of the 1984 award.

Library to Accept IFLA Vouchers for International Loans

The Library of Congress, the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and OCLC Inc. will begin a pilot project to develop an electronic reimbursement system for international interlibrary loans.

The project will explore ways to use OCLC's Interlibrary-loan Fee Management (IFM) system to manage reimbursements now made with plastic vouchers mailed with loan requests. These vouchers are issued by the IFLA Office for Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) and must be transferred physically from one institution to another. The pilot will substitute electronic accounting for physical vouchers through use of credits in the OCLC fee-management system.

The project is the result of discussions held at the 5th International Interlending Conference in Aarhus, Denmark, among representatives of the Library of Congress, OCLC and IFLA and other interested institutions. The discussions covered various objections by lenders to handling physical vouchers in an age of electronic requests. The Library suspended its foreign lending service for budgetary reasons in 1993. It resumed lending in a limited way in 1996 to a few foreign institutions, primarily those that could make requests via OCLC and reimburse using credits in the OCLC fee-management system.

The IFLA voucher scheme is based on a reusable plastic voucher, originally intended to represent a standard reimbursement for one loan or photocopy transaction. Libraries purchase vouchers from the IFLA UAP office at a set rate of U.S. $8 each. The requesting library encloses one or more vouchers with an interlibrary loan request sent to another country. The supplying library accepts the vouchers in return for a completed transaction and retains them for its own use in borrowing from abroad. Libraries that supply more items than they request can redeem their excess vouchers with the UAP office at their purchase value of U.S. $8 each. The plastic vouchers can be reused until redeemed.

The Library of Congress's Loan Division has agreed to accept the vouchers in return for both interlibrary loans and photocopies made in lieu of loan. Under the pilot, the Library will periodically return accumulated vouchers to the UAP office, where they will be exchanged for credit in the OCLC system.

GLIN and Partners Selected as NASA Research Grant Recipient

A cooperative project involving the Law Library's Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) has been selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to benefit in part from a research award. The announcement was made Dec. 2 at NASA's Washington headquarters. GLIN is a multinational on-line database of legal information that is shared by its members.

The cooperative project, "Integrating Environmental and Legal Information Systems," brings together the Law Library of Congress, the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), the University of Maryland/Baltimore County and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center to expand the use of Mission to Planet Earth data — in this case, remote sensing data in the area of environmental law. These data will be integrated with environmental law documents in the databases of GLIN and CIEL E-Line. Using data from remote sensors allows more accurate monitoring and enforcement measures to be incorporated into environmental laws and treaties.

"This project sanctions the marriage of science and law," said Rubens Medina, Law Librarian of Congress. "New technology has enabled us to integrate scientific data with legal information and expand the capacity of science as an instrument of lawmaking and implementation."

Part of the project calls for the development of a Model Environmental legislation system that will be used as an instructional tool at American University in Washington to teach the development of environmental legislation that incorporates remote sensing data. This work will also provide model information critical to augmenting the entire GLIN system.

The current project seeks to develop processes to enhance the value of Mission to Planet Earth data products beyond the earth science community and represents "an innovative use of remote sensing data," according to Milton Halem, chief of the Earth and Space Data and Computing Center at Goddard Space Flight Center.

The awards were a response to a July 1996 National Research Council recommendation that NASA identify alternative end-user products and services for the agency's planned Earth Observing System. Known as "Earth Science Information Partners," the awards totaled some $50 million and cover a three-to-five-year period for selected projects. Awards were made in two categories: 1) undertakings consisting of more strictly scientific research projects; and 2) projects involving broader user applications that go beyond the scientific community. Some 65 proposals were made in the latter category; the project involving GLIN was one of only 12 selected.

The project will be headed by Konstantinos Kalpakis of the University of Maryland/Baltimore County. Professor Kalpakis has been providing technical and training assistance to GLIN since 1996.

Carol Muske

Doug Macomber

Carl Phillips

Witter Bynner Poetry Fellowships Awarded

Poet Laureate Grants Prizes to Muske, Phillips

Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky has granted $12,500 poetry fellowships to poets Carol Muske and Carl Phillips. The awards are from the Witter Bynner Foundation in conjunction with the Library of Congress.

"Besides being wonderful poets, both of these people have personal qualities that will enable them to contribute to their communities and to poetry through the Witter Bynner Fellowships," said Mr. Pinsky, who made the selections on Nov. 25, 1997.

The fellowships are to be used to support the writing of poetry. Only two things are asked of the fellows: that they organize a local poetry reading in the spring of 1998 (in Los Angeles and St. Louis, respectively) and that they participate in a poetry reading at the Library of Congress sometime in the first half of October.

The local readings will incorporate Mr. Pinsky's Favorite Poem Project, which calls for Americans, both ordinary and luminary, to read poems by their favorite poets for a video and tape archive.

"I've had other fellowships but never one with a grassroots component," said Ms. Muske. "I find this particular outreach personally very satisfying. The relationship between the individual person and the poem has been an object of fascination for me for a long time. I think that Robert Pinsky's Favorite Poem Project brings that relationship into focus and honors it."

Said Mr. Phillips: "It is exciting to be the Midwest launching point for the Favorite Poem Project—a project that reminds us of the place poetry had in this country in earlier years, when people learned poems by heart and through song. Robert Pinsky's project restores poetry to its place as a national, shared treasure, not something exclusive to university classrooms." He added that the fellowship is "a vote of confidence that writers can use from time to time for the creation of poetry."

Ms. Muske's most recent book is *An Octave Above Thunder* (Penguin, 1997). Her previous work incudes five collections of poetry *(Camouflage,* 1975; *Skylight,* 1977; *Wyndmere,* 1985; *Applause,* 1989; and *Red Trousseau,* 1993) and two novels, *Dear Digby* (1993) and *Saving St. Germ* (1989). She has received grants and awards from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ingram-Merrill Foundation and the Poetry Society of America. A professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Southern California, she lives in Los Angeles with her daughter and her husband, actor David Dukes.

Mr. Phillips's new collection of poetry, *From the Devotions,* was recently published by Graywolf Press. He is the author of *In the Blood,* winner of the 1992 Morse Poetry Prize, and *Cortege,* which was nominated for the 1995 National Book Critics Circle Award and the Lambda Gay Men's Poetry Award. He has received fellowships and awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Massachusetts Artists Foundation, the Academy of American Poets and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Mr. Phillips is associate professor of English and of African and Afro-American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, where he also directs the Creative Writing Program. (See related story on page 28.)

The funding source for the fellowships, the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry, was incorporated in 1972 in New Mexico to provide grant support for programs in poetry through nonprofit organizations. Mr. Bynner was an influential early-20th century poet and translator of the Chinese classic the *Tao Teh Ching,* which he named *The Way of Life According to Laotzu.* He traveled with D.H. and Frieda Lawrence and

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Four Poets in Winter

McHugh, Voigt, Phillips, Wright Read at Library

Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky described poets who read for the Library of Congress Literary Series in December as a pinwheel, a pianist, a dancer and a courageous artist.

In opening comments, Mr. Pinsky compared Ms. McHugh to a pinwheel. "She takes a word and sets the word whirling to see how many sparks can come out of it."

Ms. McHugh made the Dec. 4 Montpelier Room audience laugh when she called an anagram generator on the World Wide Web "the oracle." For example, the words "English poetry," when typed into the generator, render "nightly repose." "Russian poetry" produces "syrup into ears"; "Hebrew poetry," "thereby power"; and "Bulgarian poetry," "arguably protein."

Ms. McHugh read "What He Thought," from her most recent collection of poetry, *Hinge and Sign* (1994). The poem is about a group of poets traveling in Italy with a buttoned-down tour guide who turns out to be as sensitive as a poet himself. When the question "what is poetry?" comes up at their last meal together, he tells the story of Giordano Bruno, whose statue stands in the town square Campo dei Fiori, where they are staying.

Bruno was "brought to be burned in the public square/because of his offense against/authority, which is to say/the Church ... The day they brought him/forth to die, they feared he might/incite the crowd ... And so his captors/placed upon his face/an iron mask, in which//he could not speak. That's/how they burned him. That is how/he died: without a word, in front/of everyone./And poetry—/(we'd all/put down our forks by now, to listen to/the man in gray; he went on/softly) — poetry is what/he thought, but did not say."

Other poems that Ms. McHugh read hint that she is fascinated by what is left unsaid. Ms. McHugh has been professor of English and Milliman Distinguished Writer-in-Residence at the University of Washington (Seattle) for the past decade and is a visiting faculty member in the M.F.A. Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. She has translated the work of Jean Follain, and (with her husband, Niko Boris McHugh) collections of poems by Blaga Dimitrova and by Paul Celan. She is also the author of a collection of essays, *Broken English: Poetry and Partiality* (1993).

Mr. Pinsky called the next reader, Ellen Bryant Voigt, a "classical lyric poet." He mentioned that she plays piano and said: "she writes poems the way a master plays piano at the keyboard. The very name pianoforte, loud and soft, represents the range of both elegance and compression into the most efficient space possible of things that are large."

Sandy Dyas

Heather McHugh

Ellen Bryant Voigt

Ms. Voigt read a new poem in 15 stanzas that she called "a meditation on marriage—specifically, about the assumption throughout the South of women's chief responsibility for marriage." It is addressed to her sister and set in Baton Rouge, La.

"Soft, sweet, fetching, idle, pliable, whose ideal was that? And how should it fit a childhood reaching under chickens for an egg? Or grown sisters come, with gardens on their heads, who, at the sink, uncorseted, let loose high-pitched complaint and low glissandi as they itemized the women's fellowship pew by pew, the match that each had made. ... I could see the men, leaning against the Packard in the yard, smoking, towing the hard, red dirt, analyzing crops and cash, or politics and war, or what? The world."

Ms. Voigt is the author of five volumes of poetry: *Claiming Kin* (1976); *The Forces of Plenty* (1983, reissued 1995); *The Lotus Flowers* (1987), *Two Trees* (1992) and *Kyrie* (1995), a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist. She is also the co-editor, with Gregory Orr, of *Poets Teaching Poets* (1996), a collection of craft essays.

A graduate of Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, she founded and directed the M.F.A. writing program at Goddard College and now teaches the program at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, N.C. A recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, Ms. Voigt was a Lila Wallace/Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow in 1993 and 1996 and was the 1997 Elliston Poet at the University of Cincinnati.

Carl Phillips and C.D. Wright read Dec. 11 in the Montpelier Room. Mr.

Pinsky, who taught Mr. Phillips, said of his writing: "The order of Carl Phillips's words — the grammar itself — does a little dance, like a hand gesture or facial gesture, indicating something about the emotion. It gives the feeling of an extra art, like words accompanied by music or mime, that goes along with the images and the ideas and the colors or smells of the words."

Mr. Phillips read from *In the Blood*, winner of the 1992 Morse Poetry Prize, and from his new collection of poetry, *From the Devotions*. He said the book is an effort to explore devotion in a relationship, devotion to the dead, and devotion to a helping force in times of difficulty. He closed with the title poem, reading slowly, with measured pauses *"... all travel necessarily ends here, at the sea.*//I am back, but only because./As the sun only happens to meet the water/in such a way that the water becomes/a kind of curiass: how each piece takes//and, for nothing, gives back whatever light—/sun's, moons. ... According to you *many have/ /had the ashes of lovers strewn here,/on this beach* on this water that now beats at,/ /now seems to want just to rest alongside./*The dead can't know we miss them* Presumably,//we were walking *that we are walking upon them."*

C.D. Wright

Mr. Phillips is also the author of *Cortege*, which was nominated for the 1995 National Book Critics Circle Award and the Lambda Gay Men's Poetry Award. The recipient of fellowships and awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Massachusetts Artists Foundation, the Academy of American Poets and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Mr. Phillips is associate professor of English and of African and Afro-American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, where he also directs the Creative Writing Program. Mr. Pinsky recently awarded Mr. Phillips a Witter Bynner Fellowship for poetry from the Library of Congress in conjunction with the Witter Bynner Foundation (see story on page 27).

Mr. Pinsky said Ms. Wright has "the courage to use very ordinary phrases, very plain language, and the courage to use arcane and special language and the ability to use them so the distinction dissolves. Mixing those is an artistic accomplishment."

Ms. Wright was born and raised in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. She read love poems from her latest book, *Tremble* (1996). From the prose piece, "Song of the Gourd," she read: "I went out barelegged at dusk and dug and dug and dug: I hit rock my ovaries softened. In gardening ... I could almost forget what happened many swift years ago in arkansas. I felt like a god from down under: chthonian: in gardening I thought this is it body and soul I am home at last ... only in gardening could I press my ear to the ground to hear my soul let out an unyielding noise."

And from "Key Episodes from an Earthly Life," she read: "Do you like your beets well-cooked and chilled/ even if they make your gums itch//Those dark arkansas roads that is the sound/I am after the choiring of crickets."

Ms. Wright is the author of seven books in addition to *Tremble*. *String Light* (1991) won the 1992 Poetry Center Book Award. In 1981 she received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, which prompted a move to Mexico. She was awarded the Witter Bynner Prize for Poetry from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1986, and 1987 fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Bunting Institute. A second NEA fellowship was awarded in 1988. In 1994 she was named State Poet of Rhode Island, a five-year post. With her husband, Forrest Gander, she runs Lost Roads Publishers. She is on the faculty of Brown University.

— Yvonne French

Ms. French is a public affairs specialist in the Public Affairs Office.

Fellowships
continued from page 27

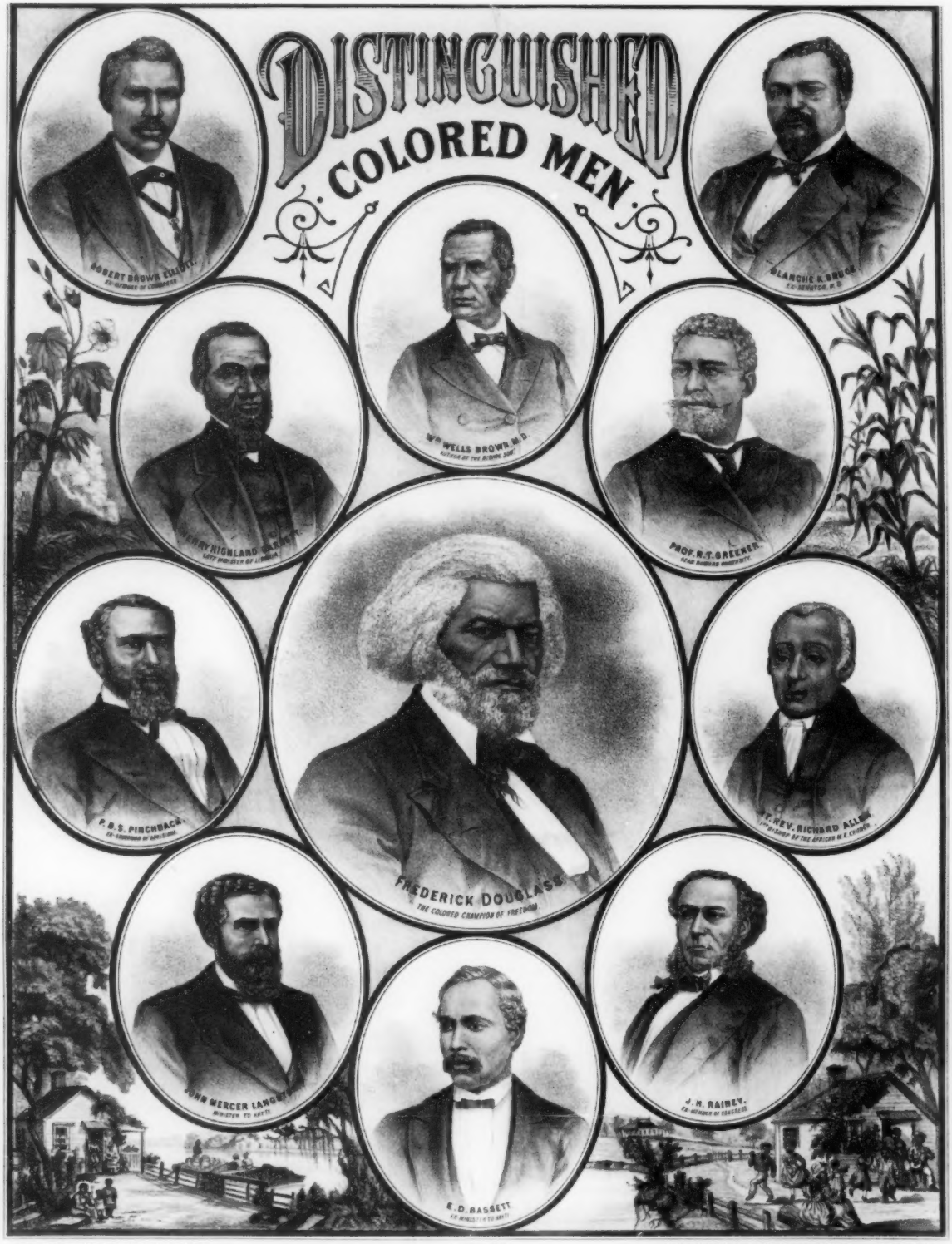
proposed to Edna St. Vincent Millay (she accepted, but then they changed their minds). He worked at *McClure's* magazine, where he published A.E. Housman for the first time in the United States and was one of O. Henry's early fans.

The Witter Bynner Foundation is giving the Library a total of $150,000 over five years; $25,000 for two or more poets each year to be chosen by the Poet Laureate in conjunction with the Library to encourage poets and poetry, and $5,000 annually for five years to assist with costs of the Poet Laureateship.

The Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry position has existed since 1936, when the late philanthropist Archer M. Huntington endowed the Chair of Poetry at the Library of Congress. Archibald MacLeish, who was Librarian from 1939 to 1944, determined the Consultant in Poetry should be an annual appointment. Since then, many of the nation's most eminent poets have served as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress and, after the passage of Public Law 99-194 in 1985, as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry.

The current Poet Laureate, Mr. Pinsky, is the award-winning translator of *The Inferno of Dante* and a creative writing professor at Boston University. In addition to making the Witter Bynner fellowship awards, he suggests authors to read in the Library's literary series, plans other special events during the literary season, and usually introduces the programs.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



U.S. News and World Report

Girls with federal escort on their way to enter Central High School, Little Rock, Ark., October 1957, silver gelatin photograph

'The African American Odyssey'

New Exhibition Documents Quest for Citizenship

by Debra Newman Ham

A major Library exhibition opening this month, "The African American Odyssey: The Quest for Full Citizenship," explores — in nine sections — the methods used by Africans and their American-born descendants not only to resist their enslavement but also to demand their emancipation and full participation in American society. Library of Congress resources included thousands of books, manuscripts, maps, images and music pieces, from which were chosen the items on view in the exhibition.

The following was written by a history professor at Morgan State University who is a former specialist in African American history and culture in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress and the guest curator of the exhibition.

***Distinguished Colored Men*, chromolithograph by Muller & Co., ca. 1883**

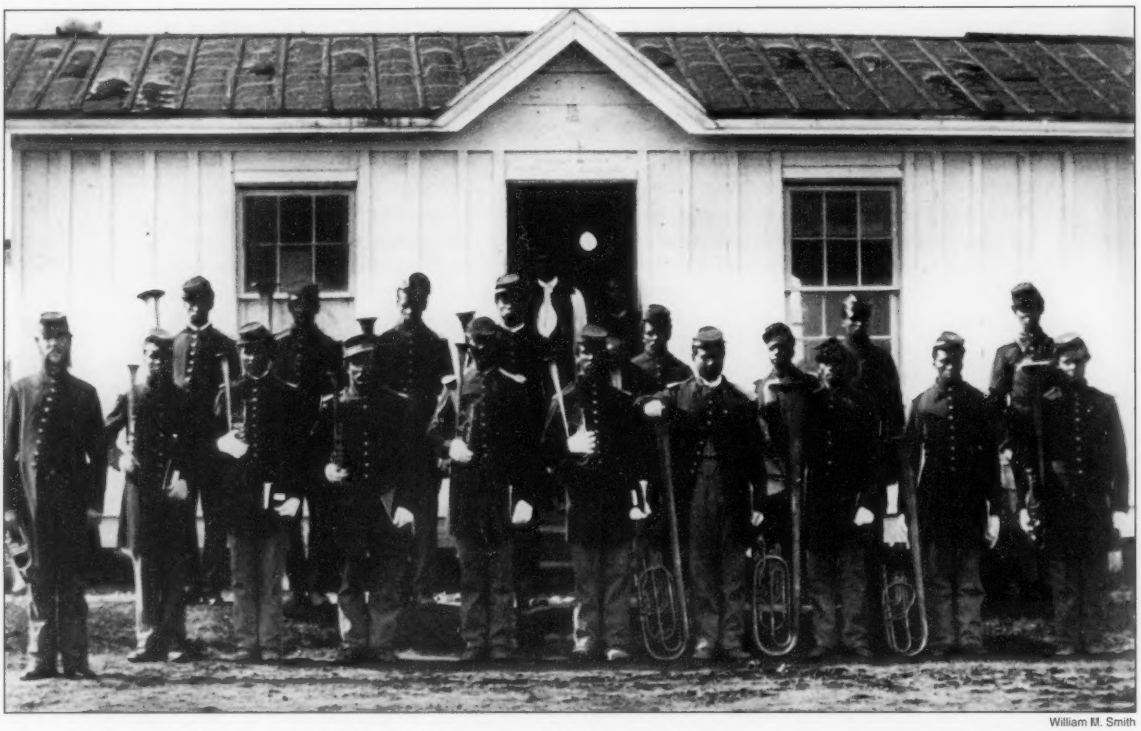
Slavery — The Peculiar Institution

Captured, shackled and shipped. Beginning in the 16th century, millions of Africans were involuntary immigrants to the New World. Freedom was the byword for those in chains. African captives resisted enslavement on the West African coast by fleeing from slave forts, mutinying on board slave trading vessels or casting themselves into the ocean. In the United States they ran away from their owners, revolted on plantations, feigned sickness or participated in work slowdowns. Some sought legal means to liberty such as self-purchase or military service.

The Europeans, Americans and African warriors responsible for engaging in the lucrative trade in humans did not intend to put into motion a chain of events that would motivate the captives and their descendants to fight for full citizenship in the United States, but they did. The one who penned the words "All men are created equal," could not possibly have envisioned how literally his own slaves and others of their race would take his words. African Americans repeatedly questioned how their owners could consider themselves noble because they had fought for their own independence from England while simultaneously believing that it was wrong for slaves to take the same course of action.

Free Blacks in the Antebellum Period

Free blacks in the antebellum period — those years from the formation of the Union until the Civil War — were quite outspoken about the injustice of slavery and the institution's inconsistency with Revolutionary Era protests against British tyranny. These African Americans who had thrown off the shackles of slavery achieved their freedom by two primary means: running away or obtaining freedom from their owners. The political, religious, literary and military activities of this free black community are amply documented in the Library of Congress collections.



William M. Smith

Band of the 107th U.S. Colored Infantry, Arlington, Va., November 1865, **members carrying their music and over-the-shoulder instruments, albumen silver print**

Although their lives were circumscribed by numerous discriminatory laws even in the Colonial period, freed African Americans were active participants in American society. Black men enlisted as soldiers and fought in the American Revolution and in the War of 1812. President George Washington's papers, housed in the Manuscript Division, include discussions about the use of black soldiers, and the Gladstone collection contains a few pay receipts for black Revolutionary War soldiers.

Enslaved blacks and their white sympathizers planned secret flight strategies and escape routes for runaways to make their way to freedom. Although it was neither subterranean nor a mechanized means of travel, this network of routes and hiding places was known as the Underground Railroad. Some free blacks were active "conductors" on the Underground Railroad, while others simply harbored runaways in their homes. Maps in the Library's collection show the routes of the Railroad, and books contain the first-person accounts of those who took this perilous route to freedom.

African American Christians opted to form their own churches in their communities when they met with discrimination. These worship centers became the hub of the economic, social and intellectual lives of blacks in many areas of the fledgling nation.

During this time, blacks were outspoken in print. *Freedom's Journal,* the first black-owned newspaper, appeared in 1827. This paper and other early writings by blacks spearheaded the attack against slavery and racist conceptions about the intellectual inferiority of African Americans.

Free people of color such as Richard Allen, Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, David Walker and Prince Hall earned national reputations for themselves by writing, speaking, organizing and agitating on behalf of their enslaved compatriots. Thousands of freed blacks, with the aid of interested whites, opted to return to Africa, helped by the American Colonization Society. A wide variety of books, manuscripts, photographs and broadsides in the Library document the activities of African American freedom seekers who founded Liberia in West Africa under the aegis of the American Colonization Society.

Abolition, Antislavery Movements And the Rise of the Sectional Controversy

Black and white abolitionists in the first half of the 19th century waged a biracial assault against slavery. Their efforts proved to be extremely effective to the point of dividing the American populace and heightening the rift that had threatened to destroy the formation of the nation even as early as the Continental Congress in the last quarter of the 18th century. Although some slave holders were Quakers, members of that religious group were among the earliest to protest the African slave trade, the perpetual bondage of the captives and the practice of separating enslaved family members by sale to different masters.

The abolitionists united to form numerous antislavery societies. These groups sent petitions with thousands of signatures to Congress, held abolition meetings and conferences, boy-

cotted products made with slave labor, printed mountains of literature, gave innumerable speeches for their cause and sometimes advocated violent means to bring the "peculiar institution" to an end.

The Library of Congress holds a vast collection of books, manuscripts, pamphlets, reports, hymnals and broadsides relating to the activities of abolition societies as well as individual abolitionists.

The Civil War

Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860 led to secession and secession to war. When the Union soldiers entered the South, thousands of African Americans fled from their owners to Union camps. The Union officers did not immediately receive an official order on how to manage this large addition to their numbers. Some Union officials sought to return the unfortunates to their owners but others kept the blacks within their lines and dubbed them "contrabands of war." Many contrabands greatly aided the war effort with their labor.

After Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which was effective on Jan. 1, 1863, black soldiers were officially allowed to participate in the war effort. The Library holds histories and pictures of most of the regiments of the United States Colored Troops as well as manuscript and published accounts by African American soldiers and their white officers documenting their participation in the successful Union effort.

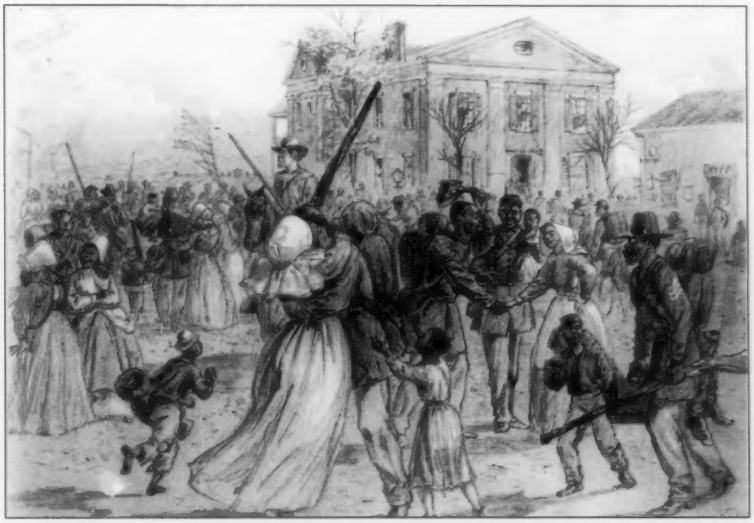
Both blacks as well as whites were outspoken about questions of race, civil rights, and full equality for the newly freed population during the Civil War era. Emancipated blacks were forced to begin their trek to full equality even without the aid of "40 acres and a mule," which many believed had been promised to them.

This Library holds a wealth of information about slave life and culture, the world's romance with the "Negro spiritual" and the "glory" of the United States Colored Troops, and records the blacks' steps toward equality, especially in the areas of employment, education and politics.

Reconstruction and Its Aftermath

During the Civil War, African Americans in rebel states were emancipated, and after the war the 13th Amendment freed all U.S. slaves wherever they were and declared them to be U.S. citizens. During this period it was difficult even for some abolitionists to encourage African Americans in their pursuit of happiness. Blacks faced the difficulty of surviving as a free people surrounded by many hostile whites. One freedman, Houston Hartsfield Holloway, wrote, "For we colored people did not know how to be free and the white people did not know how to have a free colored person about them."

Even after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, two more years of war, service by African American troops and the defeat of the Confederacy, the nation was still unprepared to deal with the question of full citizenship for the newly freed black population. Reconstruction is a term used to describe the methods of reorganizing the Southern states after the Civil War, to provide the means for



Mustered Out, Little Rock, Arkansas, April 20, 1865, **a drawing in pencil and gouache by Alfred R. Waud (1828-1891), published by** ***Harper's Weekly,*** **May 19, 1866;** ***Glimpses at the Freedmen — the Freedmen's Union Industrial School, Richmond, Va.,*** **from a sketch by Jas. E. Taylor**

Frances Benjamin Johnston

Tuskegee history class, silver gelatin photograph, 1902

readmitting them into the union and to define the means by which whites and blacks could live together in a non-slave society.

President Lincoln wanted leniency for the Southern states and believed that colonization of former slaves was desirable, since he feared that blacks and whites could not live together peaceably. Nevertheless, Lincoln proposed that the rebellious states recognize the permanent freedom of ex-slaves and provide education for them.

Following Lincoln's assassination in April 1865, the newly freed population found that it did not have a friend in President Andrew Johnson. He was as determined that African Americans should not gain full citizenship as they were determined to acquire it.

Black and white teachers from the North and South, missionary organizations, churches and schools united to work tirelessly to give the emancipated ones the opportunity to learn during the years after the war. Former slaves of every age took advantage of the many opportunities to unlock the shackles of ignorance. Grandfathers and the grandchildren sat together in classrooms seeking to obtain the tools of freedom.

Immediately after the Civil War, with the protection of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution and the Civil Rights Acts, African Americans enjoyed a period when they were allowed to vote, actively participate in the political process, buy the land of former owners, seek their own employment and use public accommodations. Enemies of the race, however, rallied against the former bondspersons' freedom and began to find means for eroding the gains for which many had shed their blood.

The Booker T. Washington Era

The 1870s, the period when African American educator Booker T. Washington was gaining ascendancy as a race leader, provides a bittersweet backdrop for the African American quest for full citizenship. The vote proved elusive, and civil rights began to vanish through court action. Lynching, racial violence and slavery's twin children — peonage and sharecropping — arose as deadly quagmires on the path to full citizenship. After the presidential election of 1877, the federal government virtually turned deaf ears to the voices of African Americans.

Yet, in this era, blacks were educated in unprecedented numbers, hundreds even received degrees from institutions of higher learning, and a few, like W.E.B. DuBois and Carter G. Woodson, earned Ph.D.s. At this time, African Americans also demonstrated their genius in music, painting, sculpture, literature and dance. This section of the exhibit demonstrates the progress of blacks in the last decades of the 19th century.

The Library houses the papers of three presidents of Tuskegee Institute — Booker T. Washington, Robert Russa Moton and Frederick Douglass Patterson — and other important manuscripts and photographs relating to the establishment and operations of historically black colleges and universities. These chronicle the way in which African Americans relentlessly pursued education. Only a small percentage of the black population was literate at the close of the Civil War. By the turn of the 20th century, however, the majority of all African Americans were literate.

Both the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the National Urban League were founded by blacks and whites in 1909. This period has been called the "nadir" of black history because so many of the gains earned after the Civil War seemed lost by the time of World War I and because racial violence and lynching reached an all-time high. The papers of both of these major civil rights organizations, which are among the holdings in the Library's Manuscript Division, document the unswerving efforts on the part of blacks and their white allies to ensure that the nation provide "freedom and justice to all."

World War I and Postwar Society

The war era galvanized the black community in its efforts to make America truly democratic. African American blood had been shed in every American war, yet people of color were still second-class citizens. Black soldiers who served in segregated units during World Wars I and II were leaders in protest against racial injustice, on the homefront and abroad. Of special interest are the diaries of Rayford Logan, a black scholar who, after serving as an officer in France during World War I, stayed as an expatriate there for many years. While there he worked with DuBois in the organization of the Pan African Conferences. He also successfully lobbied to have blacks trained as military pilots during World War II. Logan's diaries are in the Library's Manuscript Division.

Blacks and whites in the newly formed NAACP and other organiza-

tions continued to lead the onslaught against discrimination and segregation. Numerous NAACP files labeled "Soldier Troubles" document the efforts taken to prevent mistreatment of African American men and women in the military. Painstakingly, one case at a time, one law at a time, these groups confronted the racial inequities in the legal system by taking hundreds of cases to court. The Library's extensive civil rights collections document the efforts taken during this period on the part of blacks and whites to erase the legacy of slavery.

African American artists, actors and writers led the battle against intellectual and artistic bias. Between the wars and even during the deprivations of the Great Depression, there was a crescendo of African American artistic expression in the period known as the "Harlem Renaissance." Paintings, drawings, classical music, jazz, blues, poetry, drama, novels, plays and more abounded during this era. Blacks participating in the war effort abroad gave the world a taste of African American artistic genius, and the world seemed to long for more. The United States, however, was still reluctant to award full citizenship to blacks.

The Depression, the New Deal and World War II

The stock market crash of 1929 caused soup lines to become the order of the day for the skilled and unskilled alike in urban areas across the nation. African Americans in cities and rural areas, already in poverty in most areas before the Great Depression, were especially hard hit. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected in 1932, he promised a "new deal" for all Americans that would provide them with security from "the cradle to the grave." Although there were inequities in the New Deal programs that were established, many blacks had opportunities to receive benefits and obtain employment. These programs generated numerous documents that found their way to the Library's collections.

Yet none of the New Deal programs actually ended the Depression. It was the growing storm clouds in Europe, the rise of Nazism, American aid to the Allies and, ultimately, U.S. entry into World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor that revitalized the nation's economy. Remembering their experiences in World War I, African American soldiers and civilians were increasingly unwilling to quietly accept a segregated military or the discriminatory conditions they had previously endured. Northern black troops sent to the South for training often had violent encounters with white citizens there. Black-owned newspapers protested segregation, mistreatment and discrimination. Labor leader A. Philip Randolph threatened a march on Washington by more than 100,000 blacks in 1941 to protest discrimination in the military and in defense industries. In the face of rising protests, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 reaffirming the "policy of full participation in the defense program by all persons, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin."

Civil Rights Era

The postwar era marked a period of unprecedented energy against the dual system of citizenship in many parts

Poster from World War I, copyright 1918 by Charles Gustrine, Chicago, color offset; film poster for Joe Louis in "The Fight Never Ends"

of the nation. Resistance to racial segregation and discrimination with strategies such as civil disobedience, marches, protests, boycotts, "freedom rides" and rallies received national attention as newspapers, radio and television documented the raw wounds of racial repression.

Success crowned these efforts: the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision in 1954, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act in 1965 helped bring about the demise of the entangling web of legislation that seemed to inextricably bind blacks to second-class citizenship. Library of Congress photographs, film footage, newspapers, magazines, manuscripts and music holdings chronicle this period better than any other collection in existence. In addition to the NAACP and National Urban League papers, the Library also holds papers of civil rights activists such as Thurgood Marshall, Roy Wilkins, Patricia Roberts Harris, A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Mary Church Terrell, Robert Terrell, Nannie Helen Burroughs and others.

One hundred years after the Civil War, blacks and their white allies still pursued the battle for equal rights in every area of American life. The 20th century has not brought an end to the quest for full citizenship, but major milestones in civil rights laws are on the books for the purpose of regulating equal access to public accommodations, equal justice before the law and equal employment, education and housing opportunities.

African Americans have taken advantage of unprecedented openings in many fields of learning and the arts. Few other institutions can present the African American mosaic of life and culture as completely as the Library of Congress. The resources here prove that the quest for full equality on the part of African Americans has been relentless and, though fraught with difficulty to this hour, successful.

***Prince Cinque*, screenprint by artist Romare Bearden, 1971, copyright Romare Bearden Foundation, licensed by VAGA, New York, N.Y.**

'Odyssey' Exhibition Spans Three Buildings at LC

"The African American Odyssey" opens Feb. 5 in all three of the Library of Congress buildings on Capitol Hill. The exhibition will be open through May 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Library is closed on Sundays and federal holidays.

The exhibition is being sponsored by the Anheuser-Busch Companies Inc., the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, CITIBANK, the Fannie Mae Foundation, Home Box Office and the James Madison Council of the Library of Congress.

Additionally, a gift from the Citicorp Foundation to the National Digital Library Program of the Library of Congress will launch a five-year effort to transmit portions of "The African American Odyssey" and related rare items from the Library's vast African American collections to classrooms, libraries, community centers and homes electronically via the Internet at http://www.loc.gov/.

The major presentation of the exhibition (detailed in this issue's cover story) is located in the Thomas Jefferson Building's Northwest Gallery and Pavilion. Titled "The African American Odyssey: A Quest for Full Citizenship," the display explores black America's quest for equality from the early national period through the 20th century.

In the James Madison Building will be displayed the portion of the exhibition titled "The African American Odyssey: Fine Prints and Photographs by 20th Century African American Artists." Included are many of the most renowned African American artists of the 20th century: Romare Bearden, Bob Blackburn, Elizabeth Catlett, Roland Freeman, Sam William, Chester Higgins Jr., Jacob Lawrence, Martin Parer, Raymond Seth and James Van Der Zee. The images range from the portrayal of leisure activities to depictions of varied religious affiliations, from faces of young and old to representational and symbolic views of black life.

In the John Adams Building will be a portion of the exhibition titled "The African American Odyssey: Black Business and Family Life at the Turn of the Century in the Daniel A.P. Murray Collection." Only 35 years after the abolition of slavery, W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington and Daniel A.P. Murray, a historian and librarian who worked at the Library of Congress for 52 years, planned an award-winning exhibition for the Paris Exposition of 1900. The exhibition included literature about African Americans assembled by Murray, drawings and inventions by blacks accepted by the U.S. Patent Office and a display on African American winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Photographs from the exhibit will be displayed in the Adams Building.

An exhibition catalog, *The African American Odyssey*, edited by Dr. Ham, prefaced by Dr. Billington and published by the Library, will be available for $19.95 in sales shops in the Jefferson and Madison buildings.

Tracer Bullets

Two New Bibliographies Published

Two new subject bibliographies have recently been published by the Library's Science and Technology Division in its "Tracer Bullet" series.

The first, *Cryptology*, concerns the making and breaking of codes and ciphers. Cryptography is that part of cryptology concerned with conveying messages in a secret or encrypted form, and cryptanalysis is the reading of encrypted messages without having authorized knowledge of the key that was used in encryption.

With advances in computers and telecommunications, and increased dependence on such systems, the use of cryptography has found new applications in the lives of individuals and in the world of commerce. Cryptography has proved to be the best technique for protecting information transmitted through accessible communications networks such as telephone lines, satellites and microwave systems.

Cryptology was once the domain of the government, especially for military and diplomatic purposes, but it is increasingly becoming a mathematical discipline, as mathematics provides the theoretical justification behind the strength of a particular encryption system. While this makes possible much more interesting, complicated and sophisticated encryption systems, it also means that a degree of mathematical expertise is required.

Another bibliography, *Biodiversity*, replaces an earlier edition with the same title. Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is usually defined as the variety and variability of living organisms and the biological communities in which they live, plus the ecological and evolutionary processes that keep them functioning. Biodiversity is directly and indirectly affected by human activities, which sometimes lead to reductions in diversity; an example is the destruction of habitats. Some scientists and environmentalists think the loss of diversity should already be considered a crisis and will accelerate in the near future. They argue that biodiversity must be maintained because of the ecosystem services, economic benefits and evolutionary potential it provides, as well as for aesthetic and ethical reasons.

These guides are not intended to be comprehensive bibliographies. Based on holdings of the Library of Congress, Tracer Bullets are designed — as the name of the series implies — to put the reader "on target." To facilitate further research, LC subject headings are included, under which additional resources can be located in most card, book and on-line catalogs.

Tracer Bullets, which are free of charge, may be obtained by writing to the Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540, or by telephoning (202) 707-5664. If a recording is heard, which occasionally happens, leave your name, address and request. A list is available of many other Tracer Bullets on timely subjects in science and technology.

For those with Internet access, all Tracer Bullets from 1989 to the present, as well as selected older Tracer Bullets, can be read on *SCTB Online*. Currently, *Cryptology* is featured on the "What's New" page of the site. *Biodiversity* will soon be uploaded. The *SCTB Online* file can be reached at http://lcweb2.loc.gov/sctb or from the Science Reading Room home page at http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/scitech.

National Overviews

Three Country Studies Published with U.S. Army

The Library of Congress Federal Research Division has issued the latest three volumes in a series of country studies published under an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army: *South Africa: A Country Study*, edited by Rita Byrnes; *Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan: Country Studies*, edited by Glenn E. Curtis; and *Mexico: A Country Study*, edited by Tim L. Merrill and Ramon Miro.

The series consists of 106 titles covering 143 sovereign states and 15 dependencies. A typical book in the series, intended as an introduction to an individual country, contains five chapters describing and analyzing its history, society, economy, government and politics, and national security. Books encompassing several countries or an entire region, such as the new book on the five Central Asian states, provide the same information in a somewhat condensed format. All books in the series are hardbound and contain maps, charts, photographs, tables, chapter bibliographies, a glossary and an index.

Nearly 1.2 million copies of the books in the series have been sold by the U.S. Superintendent of Documents, and more than 242,000 copies have been distributed to depository libraries throughout the United States.

A list of books in print in the series is available in writing from the Country Studies Program, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4840 or via telephone (202-707-2888), fax (202-707-3920), or email (FRDS@loc.gov).

To purchase the books, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Titles and stock numbers must be cited when ordering (*South Africa* – $32, 008-020-01433-8; *Kazakstan* et al – $33, 008-020-01434-6; and *Mexico* – $25, 008-020-01432-0). Include check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents. Credit card purchases may be made by phone at (202) 512-1800. Country studies can also be purchased through the Sales Shop, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4985.

News from the Center for the Book

International Book and Reading Activities Expand

In 1997, the Center for the Book marked its 20th anniversary of promoting books, reading and libraries (see the LC *Information Bulletin*, December 1997).

The international side of the center's activities has focused on projects developed in cooperation with UNESCO, the U.S. publishing community, the U.S. Information Agency or other U.S. government agencies and Library of Congress area studies divisions.

Early Center for the Book projects resulted in several publications, including: *The International Flow of Information: A Trans-Pacific Perspective* (1981); *U.S. International Book Programs 1981* (1982); *U.S. Books Abroad: Neglected Ambassadors*, by Curtis G. Benjamin (1984); and, with the Library's Asian Division, *Multiple Meanings: The Written Word* in Japan (1986). In 1987, the International Book Committee, an advisory committee to UNESCO, presented the Center for the Book with its International Book Award, in recognition of the center's "imaginative and practical campaigns on behalf of books and reading."

Other Center for the Book projects have included conferences on: "The Book in the Islamic World," cosponsored with the Library's Near East Section (Nov. 8-9, 1990); "The National Library in the Life of the Nation: The Lenin State Library and the Library of Congress" (Moscow, Oct. 29-31, 1991); the future of the U. S. Information Agency's book and library programs (Feb. 11, 1993); "Publishing and Book Culture in Russia and the New States (March 9-10, 1993); and "Libraries and Reading in Times of Cultural Change" (Vologda, Russia, June 18-22, 1996).

Current international Center for the Book activities include participation in international book fairs and conferences; cooperation with book centers and literacy organizations in other countries; support for U.S. celebrations of World Book Day (April 23) and International Literacy Day (Sept. 8), encouragement of the development of centers for the book in other countries; and involvement in book, reading and library promotion projects supported by UNESCO and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

■ **International "Reading for All" Panel Meets in Egypt.** Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole represented IFLA on Nov. 24-25, 1997, in Aswan, Egypt, at the first meeting of the UNESCO-sponsored International Panel on the Reading for All Program. Chaired by Suzanne Mubarak, first lady of Egypt, the panel was established "to advise on the preparation and implementation" of a new international program inspired by the successful Egyptian "Reading for All" project initiated by Mrs. Mubarak in 1991. The program promotes the reading habit among children, primarily through the strengthening of public libraries and distribution of inexpensive reading materials in underprivileged rural and urban communities. In March 1997, UNESCO Egyptian authorities agreed to allow UNESCO members to benefit from the Egyptian experience through UNESCO-coordinated national and regional initiatives.

Following opening addresses by Mrs. Mubarak and UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor, panel members heard presentations about the Egyptian program. Panelists made individual presentations on the second day, focusing on reading promotion programs carried out in their respective countries. The other nations represented on the panel were Brazil, Bulgaria, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, and Trinidad and Tobago.

When Suzanne Mubarak, wife of the president of Egypt, visited the Library on April 10, 1989 (above), Dr. Billington named her Honorary International Chair of the Center for the Book's "1989 — Year of the Young Reader" campaign.

In its recommendations to UNESCO, the panel expressed its approval of this UNESCO initiative, its appreciation of the Egyptian "Reading for All" program and its agreement to share its findings "with their national institutions and authorities, as well as with other organizations involved in the promotion of reading," and to report back with the reactions at its next meeting. In addition to recommending that "governments and nongovernmental organizations consider the possibilities of applying the experiences of the Egyptian Reading for All program," the panel recommended that governments and nongovernment agencies "evaluate their past and present national reading promotion activities with the aim of carrying out an assessment of needs in this field."

Eight different countries were represented on Nov. 24-25, 1997, in Aswan, Egypt, at the meeting of the UNESCO-sponsored International Panel on the Reading for All Program. The Library's John Cole is on the far right.

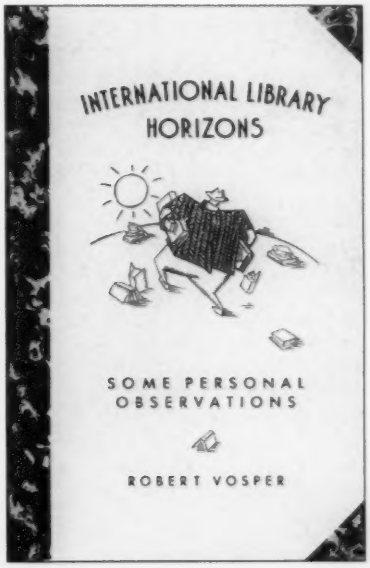
■ **IFLA Section on Reading.** Center for the Book Director John Cole was elected chairman of the IFLA Section on Reading at its meeting on Aug. 30, 1997, in Copenhagen, Denmark, during IFLA's 63rd general conference. Adele M. Fasick, former dean of the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto, was elected secretary-treasurer. Formerly the Round Table on Research on Reading, the new Section on Reading was established in 1997. Its goals are: 1) to assume a leadership role in outlining strategies for international campaigns that support reading development; 2) to monitor the dissemination of knowledge about reading, readers and library patrons; 3) to promote the understanding of reading patterns and literacy problems among librarians and other cultural agents; 4) to explore various ways of promoting reading and literacy in specific cultural milieus; 5) to carry out research on the problems of literacy and reading; and 6) to emphasize the role of reading in children's development and to outline various methods that have been used in different countries.

The Section on Reading is cosponsoring, with the IFLA Round Table on Library History and other organizations, a two-day conference in Paris on June 11-12 that will examine the effect of the post-World War II "Cold War" on libraries, reading and publishing. The conference will be hosted by the French National Library School. For further information, contact conference coordinator Martine Poulain, 27 rue Bezout, 74014 Paris, France, fax 33-1-40-64-1089, e-mail: poulain@ext.jussieu.fr.

"Book and Reading Promotion in the Low Countries" is the Section on Reading's program at the 1998 IFLA conference in Amsterdam, Aug. 16-21. The program highlights books and reading promotion in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, with special attention to several successful public and private partnerships in the Netherlands. Speakers will include representatives from Stichting Lezen (the Dutch Reading Foundation), Stichting CPNB (Collective Propaganda for the Dutch Book) and the Stichting Schrijvers School Samenleving (Foundation of Writers, School, Society).

Also during the Amsterdam conference, in cooperation with the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations, the Section on Reading will sponsor a workshop on "Literacy and Reading Services to Cultural and Linguistic Minorities." The workshop will bring together experts from several countries and regions to explore the kinds of programs under way that encourage literacy and promote reading among children and newly literate adults. Papers will deal with issues such as the factors that constitute a successful reading promotion program; the publication of materials in indigenous languages; the transition from mother-tongue reading to majority-language texts; and the feasibility of publishing multilanguage editions of reading materials. The objective is to produce guidelines for planning successful literacy and reading promotion projects.

■ **Booklet on International Librarianship Available.** Copies of *International Library Horizons: Some Personal Observations* by Robert Vosper, a 25-page booklet published by the Library of Congress in 1989, are available from the Center for the Book. One of the outstanding library leaders in the United States from the 1950s to the 1980s, Mr. Vosper was a key participant in international-library activities, including those of IFLA. The booklet, sponsored by the Center for the Book, contains his recollections and observations on topics such as post-World War II library acquisitions from Europe, the Farmington Plan, the international activities of the American Library Association and the Association of Research Libraries, U.S. involvement in IFLA and many of the IFLA general conferences in the 1960s and 1970s. Single copies of the booklet are available without charge upon written request to the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4920.



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